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Dayton Earns Bicycle Friendly Designation From League of American Bicyclists

Release Date: Monday, May 3, 2010

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The City of Dayton is the only Ohio city to be selected as a Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) by the League of American Bicyclists in its spring 2010 rankings.

Dayton was awarded the Bronze level status for its efforts to help make the city more bicycle and pedestrian friendly. Columbus, which earned the designation last year, is the only other Ohio city to be recognized by the organization as “bike friendly.” Troy and Cleveland Heights received an Honorable Mention this year.

“Receiving Bronze level recognition from the League of American Bicyclists is a clear indication of the progress our community is making to integrate bicycles more directly in our lives and lifestyles,” said City Commissioner Nan Whaley, a leading proponent of this movement locally. “The many individuals, groups and organizations now actively engaged in making Dayton more bicycle and pedestrian friendly should feel proud of their work and of this achievement. Whether for leisure, transportation or business, bicycles are playing a larger and more visible role in our community, and that’s great news!”

Some of the bicycle-friendly activities that helped Dayton earn this national recognition include: adding several bike lanes to the downtown streetscape during the two-way street conversion project, with plans to add more “sharrows” in future community development projects; Dayton City Commission adoption of a new livable streets policy to solidify the City's commitment to accommodate multi-modal transit in future planning and development; Five Rivers MetroParks’ decision to build a bicycle hub for the downtown area; numerous community partners have worked closely to develop the Greater Downtown Plan, which includes a strong emphasis on bicycling; organizations like Five Rivers MetroParks and private citizen groups like Courteous Mass frequently sponsor group rides and related educational program; and the Miami Conservancy District and the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission have created new trail signs and maps for the growing river corridor trail system.

“Communities from all areas of the country, climates and populations see bicycling as an integral component of building livable communities,” said Andy Clarke, President of the League of American Bicyclists. “The Bicycle Friendly Community program is recognizing those leading the way. The explosive growth of the BFC Program demonstrates how communities across the country see the importance of promoting bicycling to improve public health, improve quality of life, protect the environment and provide better transportation choices.”

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“We are excited to see the level of interest and quality of programs,” said Bill Nesper, Director of the Bicycle Friendly America program. “We look forward to partnering with these communities to improve conditions for cycling. We want these communities to move up the ranks of the program, and our staff is dedicated to providing assistance to awarded and aspiring Bicycle Friendly Communities.”

The BFC program is revolutionizing the way communities evaluate their quality of life, sustainability and transportation networks, while allowing them to benchmark their progress and work toward improving their bicycle-friendliness. The application process to become a BFC is rigorous; currently only 140 of the 359 total applicants have a BFC four-year designation. The renewal process and four levels of the award – platinum, gold, silver and bronze – provide a clear incentive for communities to continuously improve. The new and expanded BFC program began at the League in 1995, and in the past 15 years it has evolved into the tool it is today – evaluating, recognizing and improving cities, states and businesses.

2010 Spring Bicycle Friendly Community Winners:

- Albany, OR - New Bronze
- Davidson, NC - New Bronze
- Dayton, OH - New Bronze
- Franklin, PA - New Bronze
- Lansing, MI - New Bronze
- Marquette, MI - New Bronze
- Newark, DE - New Bronze
- Pittsburgh, PA - New Bronze
- Portage, MI - New Bronze
- Ridgeland, MS - New Bronze
- Roanoke, VA - New Bronze
- Rochester, MN - New Bronze
- Simsbury, CT - New Bronze
- Spokane, WA - New Bronze
- Springfield, MO - New Bronze
- Urbana, IL - New Bronze
- Chico, CA - Renewal Bronze
- Austin, TX - Renewal Silver
- Flagstaff, AZ - Renewal Silver
- Gainesville, FL - Renewal Silver
- Salt Lake City, UT - Renewal Silver

2010 Honorable Mentions:

Cleveland Heights, Ohio; Columbus, Ga.; Driggs, Idaho; Edina, Minn.; Edmond, Okla.; Elgin, Ill.; Falmouth, Mass.; Goshen, Ind.; Harrisonburg, Va.; Helena, Mont.; Loveland, Colo.; Midland, Mich.; Montclair, N.J.; North Lake Tahoe/Truckee Resort Area, Calif.; Saline, Mich.; Troy, Ohio; Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Tybee Island, Ga.; Victor, Idaho

The Bicycle Friendly Community, Bicycle Friendly State, and Bicycle Friendly Business programs are generously supported by program partners Bikes Belong and Trek Bicycle’s One World, Two Wheels Campaign. To learn more, visit www.bicyclefriendlycommunities.org.

